

Local Governing Board

Monday 17th March 2025

Minutes

Present: Del Cooke (Chair)
George Constantinides
Tim Grundy
David Lee
Emma McCoy
Phil Ramsden
Samit Shah
Vernika Sharma

In Attendance: Sugra Alibhai
Beth Holmes
Peter Green

1.	Student Presentation
2.	Governance
3.	Previous Minutes
4.	Matters Arising
5.	Headteacher's Report
6.	School Improvement Plan and SAR
7.	Student Experience - Wellbeing
8.	Wider Participation
9.	U Maths
10.	Building Update
11.	Risk Register
12.	AOB

Minute	Decision /Action	D/A
3.1.4	CEO and Chair of Trustees to discuss the recommendation of a training governor.	
6.	PR and GC to follow up with Imperial regarding guest speakers.	
7.	Governors and Trustees to attend the U Maths Governor Network Day on 9 May if able.	

1. Student Presentation

The Board received a presentation from Kai Hoshino on the topic of *source-sink modelling of the orbital debris population*. The Board thanked Kai for his exceptional presentation and eloquent answers to governors' questions.

DL informed the Board that the school will begin these projects earlier going forward, explaining that this will also allow students to focus on other commitments such as UCAS applications.

2. Governance

2.1 Apologies for Absence

None.

1.2 Declaration of Interest

None.

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2024 were reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record. It was agreed that part of items 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10 were confidential and would be removed before publication on the school website.

4. Matters Arising

- 1.4 It was noted that the External Review of Governance report had been shared with governors, with recommendations made around training, including having a dedicated training governor on Local Governing Boards. It was noted that this would be discussed by the CEO and Chair of Trustees.
- 1.4 BH confirmed that, following the last meeting, a full review of the Scheme of Delegation is currently underway. This will be shared with the Local Governing Boards for feedback before being approved by Trustees in July.
- 4. **The Board requested** an update on students at academic stage 3 and received this.
- 4 It was noted that SS had been appointed as Careers Governor and had conducted a link visit on this area. SS met with the relevant staff to understand the careers process and discussed the provision with students. It was suggested that better use could be made of the parent body. It was noted that U Maths will be holding a Careers Day in the summer for all maths schools.
- 6. DL had contacted Imperial College London to seek volunteers to support students with mock interviews.

Action

5. Headteacher's Report

The Board was pleased to note that the school has now received an exam centre number and the process around this is near completion.

DL updated the Board on recent offers received from Imperial College London.

The Board reviewed the latest projections for Year 13 data, noting further work was needed around A*-B in Further Maths (93%, compared to 100% in other subjects) and A*-A attainment. **In response to a question**, DL outlined the interventions in place to support students who are not meeting expectations, including 1:1 meetings, outlining revision strategies, and shifting focus from idealistic teaching towards exam-focused preparation.

A discussion took place regarding value-added versus attainment and what success means to the Local Governing Board. DL confirmed that value-added and attainment are not always in line, as achieving a B in some subjects results in a better value-added score than achieving an A in others, given the school's high-achieving cohort.

In response to a question from governors, DL acknowledged that some Year 12 students may feel overwhelmed by their high-achieving peers, highlighting the importance of maintaining an inclusive school environment.

The Board agreed that both value-added and attainment are important metrics, alongside key groups such as students eligible for free school meals. It was recognised that choices must be made, given the small staff team, to ensure the school remains true to its ethos of widening participation.

A discussion took place around whether staff feel confident in their own systems for deciding how best to support students with their studies and this was confirmed to be the case. It was agreed to revisit this in the lead-up to the first set of exams to assess how this evolves as the school grows.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that there had been a 10% reduction in applications and a 10% dip in test invites. This was considered to be a natural variation, with the lack of a completed school building also being a contributing factor.

A question was raised regarding 10 students at academic stage 2. DL confirmed that this was part of a wider push on academic performance and attendance.

It was noted that there had been three racist incidents involving four students. Clear consequences were enforced, including formal letters to parents. The CEO had been involved in Level 3 interventions and there had been assemblies, and personal development sessions to address wider issues. No further incidents have occurred. The school remains confident that these were isolated cases and were handled appropriately. The small school size and strong relationships allow for swift issue resolution.

An Ofsted update was provided, noting that the inspection had been deferred but could now take place at any time.

The Board was informed that the school will take 60 students this year due to the DfE not supplying extra temporary buildings. This is a reduction from 80 to prevent overcrowding. However, financially, this is manageable, though further reductions would be challenging.

5. Widening Participation + Outreach

It was noted that this was covered in the previous item.

The Board was informed that Student Council has elected a DEI representative and Imperial Maths School is working with 22 schools on outreach initiatives, including ME10, ME11, and Axiom.

6. School Improvement Plan

The Board received the School Improvement Plan, which had been RAG-rated.

Governors raised concerns that the objective around guest speakers and lecturers were currently graded amber/red. DL explained that Imperial is aware of this issue and is actively working on a solution, as challenges include bottlenecks in the Outreach Team and finding suitable space to hold events. PR and GC will follow up with Imperial. It was suggested that students visit Imperial at least three times a year, with an evening event as a potential solution.

Action

Governors requested an update on the Chemistry teacher vacancy, and noted this had now been filled.

In response to a question around IT challenges, it was noted that the Trust has appointed a Head of Digital Development.

7. University Maths School Network

The Governor Network Day is scheduled for 9 May 2025 and Trustees and governors were invited to attend.

Action

The next U Maths meeting was due to take place shortly and it was noted that, despite political changes and some on-going concerns, there is no anticipated risk to existing Maths Schools.

8. Building Update

Confidential minute.

9. Risk Register

The Board reviewed the school's risk register, identifying the highest risks as delays to the permanent building, IT challenges and the potential for radicalisation, given the national climate.

Cybersecurity training has been implemented, and the national cybersecurity course will be made mandatory across the Trust every September.

It was agreed that the risk related to Imperial Maths School's exam centre registration can now be removed.

10. Any Other Business

It was noted that Mill Hill Independent School is opening a Maths School for students aged 11-18, but it is not linked to a university. This was discussed by the Board and it was noted that it would attract a different cohort to Imperial Maths School and is not considered a direct concern. It was noted that XTX, a major funder of U Maths, is also involved in this initiative.

Under admissions, it was noted that appeals must be considered by the end of June and the Chair would be in touch with governors regarding potential dates to consider these. DL confirmed that offer day is 31 March.

All governors were invited to hear the students' presentations on 2nd April 2025.